

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TBIO, MX

SUBJECT: R/V JAMES M. GILLISS CLEARANCE REQUEST-APRIL 1976

1. R/V GILLISS, A PRIVATE VESSEL OPERATED BY THE U. OF MIAMI AND FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT A FISH LARVAE STUDY IN THE GULF OF MEXICO DURING THE PERIOD 8-28 APRIL 1976. THIS CRUISE WILL BE THE SECOND PHASE OF A SERIES INITIATED BY THE GILLISS IN NOVEMBER 1975 INVOLVING FISH LARVAE RESEARCH IN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF MEXICO.

2. LEPTOCEPHALUS FISH LARVAE WILL BE COLLECTED AND PRESERVED FROM PLANKTON TOW SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO AND THE YUCATAN CHANNEL TO DETERMINE THE KINDS, ABUNDANCE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF LARVAE. PLANKTON TOWING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT NIGHT USING 2-METER AND 1-METER PLANKTON NETS, 6-FOOT AND 10-FOOT OTTER TRAWLS. ALSO, A BRIEF SURVEY OF REEF ORGANISMS ON ALACRAN REEF WILL BE CONDUCTED.

3. THE PORT VISITS AND DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS: MIAMI - UNCLASSIFIED

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8 APR, COZUMEL - 10 APR, ALACRAN REEF - 14 APR, VERACRUZ -

18 APR, GALVESTON - 23 APR, MIAMI - 28 APR. PORT CALLS
WILL BE ARRANGED BY SHIP'S AGENTS CARLOS NAMUR AGUILAR
OR GENERAL MARITIME AGENCY. A SHIP'S TRACK WILL BE FOR-

WARDED VIA AIRGRAM.

4. GILLIS IS 965 GROSS TONS, 208 FEET LONG, WITH A 15
FOOT DRAFT. SHIP'S MASTER IS ROBERT HAGAN, JR, AND
THERE IS A CREW OF 22 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 17. DR.
WILLIAM H. HULET IS THE CHIEF SCIENTIST. GILLISS'S
CALL SIGN IS WEWP AND SHIP MONITORS STANDARD EMERGENCY
FREQUENCIES.

5. BERTHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 2 MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS
AND ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE SHARED WITH GOM. THE
MEXICAN OCEANIC SORTING CENTER IS COOPERATING WITH THE
EXPEDITION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SEEK CLEARANCE FOR
GILLISS TO CONDUCT FISH LARVAE SURVEY IN MEXICAN TERRI-
TORIAL WATERS DURING THE PERIOD 8-28 APRIL 1976. KISSINGER

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